

Trustees' report

For the year ended December 2023

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Reference and administrative details of charity and its trustees.

Churches Together in Bedfordshire was registered in England and Wales as a charity (Number 1151495) on the 3rd April 2013.

The registered office of the charity is:

Willington Methodist Church
Station Road
Willington
Bedford
MK44 3QH

The trustees under charity law who served during the period and up to the date of this report were

Trustees names for this period

Jeffrey William Hugh Bulled
Alan Dansey
Steven Gary Dolby
Rev John Sean Healy
George Watt (Chair)

Structure, Governance, and management

Churches Together in Bedfordshire (CTB) is a constituent part of Churches Together in England and both bodies work in tandem to foster ecumenical links and good practice across the County of Bedfordshire. The group meets usually three times a year with an Annual General Meeting open to all in the county interested in the work of ecumenism. CTB is supported by the following denominations:

Church of England
Methodist Church
United Reformed Church
Roman Catholic Church
Baptist Union
Salvation Army
Society of Friends
Congregational Federation

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Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee (BEC) is governed by a constitution that was adopted on the 23rd January 2013 and registered with the Charity Commission on 3rd April 2013 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

The trustees meet at least 4 times per year with other members of Churches together in Bedfordshire to discuss the strategic direction of the charity and to monitor progress both financially and in terms of successful delivery of its activities.

The day-to-day management is undertaken by the trustees and members.

Objectives and Activities

As stated in the trust deed:

To Advance the Christian religion and education by

- (a) participating in the life and works of Churches together in England (CTE) as an intermediate body
- (b) Sponsoring Local Ecumenical Partnerships
- (c) Encouraging those bodies and individuals in the churches who share a similar remit or concern to work together.
- (d) Taking any further actions which may encourage the development of the Ecumenical Agenda

To relieve financial hardship anywhere in the World by making grants from funds raised directly or coordinated fundraising efforts by member churches.

Achievements and Performance

The Forum was able to meet in person in April at Howard Memorial Church in Cardington, Bedford, the first time since the pandemic. The event was well attended with representation from across the area and member churches. Doral Hayes, Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations for Churches Together in England talked about "Living Ecumenically: Christian unity present and future".

We held 3 Trustee Meetings and 4 general including the Forum (AGM). It was possible to pay off the outstanding pension debt. Consequently, the Trustees were able to begin planning to employ a County Ecumenical Officer agreeing to work collaboratively with Churches Together in Hertfordshire in making a joint appointment. It is hoped this will happen in 2024, providing support to local Churches Together groups and expanding our activities.

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Financial Review

The trustee's records of the financial transactions undertaken by the charity from which the annual statements of accounts are prepared have been maintained as required by Part 6 of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006. Income during the year did not reach the threshold requiring an independent auditor. At the time of writing the charity does not have a reserves policy. The charity does not hold any fixed assets.

Duty of prudence - the trustees are aware that the charity should remain solvent, and assets should only be used to further the purposes and interests of the charity

This report was approved by the Trustees on.....2024

And signed on their behalf by.....

George Watt - Chairman

Churches Together in Bedfordshire

Financial Activities

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Income	
Donations	9,593.60
Total Income	£9,593.60
TOTAL	£9,593.60
Expenditures	
AGM Costs	200.56
Bank charges	69.20
Dues and Subscriptions	350.00
Insurances	196.00
Office/General Administrative Expenses	6.00
Secretarial Services	1,197.50
Website	120.00
Total Expenditures	£2,139.26
NET OPERATING INCOME	£7,454.34
Other Income	
Interest earned	46.50
Total Other Income	£46.50
NET OTHER INCOME	£46.50
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	£7,500.84

Examined and found to be in order.

J. Caves

JOHN EDWARD CAVES
9TH JANUARY 2024

Churches Together in Bedfordshire

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
Fixed Asset	
Total Fixed Asset	
Cash at bank and in hand	
HSBC - 538	10,199.64
HSBC - 672	6,054.41
HSBC - 912	221.34
Total Cash at bank and in hand	£16,475.39
Debtors	
Debtors	0.00
Total Debtors	£0.00
NET CURRENT ASSETS	£16,475.39
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	
Trade Creditors	
Creditors	0.00
Total Trade Creditors	£0.00
Current Liabilities	
Accruals	0.00
PAYE	0.00
Pension Liabilities	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	£0.00
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£0.00
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£16,475.39
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	£16,475.39
TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£16,475.39
Charity funds	
Opening Balance Equity	-8,472.89
Retained Earnings	17,447.44
Surplus/(Deficit)	7,500.84
Total Charity funds	£16,475.39

Examined and found to be in order.

✓ Caves
JOHN EDWARD CAVES
9TH JANUARY 2024